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Vaccination clinics underway in county

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Standing outside the Haliburton Highlands Health Services vaccination hub located at the Pinesetone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton on Thursday, March 18, Kelly Lawr was readying herself to join the line of frontline workers and receive the first of two COVID-19 doses.

The married mother of three said she was doing it to keep her family safe and that although she was a little hesitant because of the vaccine's short history, she knew it was part of a process to return to a life before the pandemic.

"We have to start somewhere, right? I'm going to do what I can to keep myself and my family safe or whoever. It's everybody," she said.

Health Canada provides a comprehensive breakdown on vaccine safety, concerns and possible side effects on its website at www.canada.ca. It outlines the measures for safety and provides a list of the common vaccine side effects, which can include mild fever, flu-like symptoms such as chills, fatigue, joint pain, headache and muscle aches, and redness, soreness or swelling at the site of where the vaccine was given. It also includes specific information related to vaccination for

see INFORMATION page 3



Concerned citizens seize the sidewalk

Climate change demonstrators walk with protest signs in the Minden downtown on Friday, March 19, in hopes of raising awareness and holding the government accountable with the Fridays for Future Global Day of Climate Action. The demonstration was organized by Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County. See story on page 10. /DARREN LUM Staff

Rogers successful bidder on EORN project

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Rogers Communications is the successful bidder on the contract for the Eastern Ontario

Regional Network's cell gap project, with some work on the massive project, now valued at more than \$300 million, anticipated to get underway this spring.

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott, along with HKB MP Jamie Schmale,

joined municipal politicians from Haliburton County for an announcement in Wilberforce on March 19.

"We're going to see people here, and in our communities, have such an improved quality of life, for our businesses, for people, person-

see PROJECT page 2

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Project includes 300 new towers

from page 1

ally, to connect with so many services," Scott said, praising the partners involved in the project. "... This is, I think, a big game-changer for the people of Haliburton County."

Schmale noted the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the county's lack of reliable internet and cell service.

"We saw, even pre-pandemic, the need for all of that," Schmale said. "But now since the pandemic has really kicked in, we really see the need for quality high-speed internet and cellular service."

"It's been a long time coming in helping produce another piece to that puzzle," Schmale said.

The public-private partnership project will include upgrading existing towers and the construction of 300 new cell towers throughout eastern Ontario and aims to ensure 99 per cent of the area has cellular calling service; that 95 per cent of the area has sufficient coverage to run video and applications; and that 85 per cent has the capability to stream high-definition video. The project has been in the planning and fundraising stages for more than four years, with the provincial and federal governments each contributing \$71 million. Municipal governments throughout the area are contributing \$10 million (the County of Haliburton up to \$565,000), and while initially it was expected a private sector partner would contribute \$61 million for a total project value of \$213, it was announced last week that Rogers will contribute \$150 million, pushing its total value past \$300 million.

The entire project is expected to be completed within five years, with heightened connectivity achieved in some areas in the interim. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin is a member of the EORN board, and said the project would allow for other providers, including some smaller ones, to piggyback, installing their equipment on the towers.

"There are going to be some things happen in this calendar year," Devolin said during last week's announcement. "I think what will happen with Rogers, now ... I think they'll do their best before the year's out to roll out a timeline across the region, and of course all 13 regions are wanting to know when it's coming to them, and I think they will be able probably, before the end of the year, to give us a lot more specific information on that front. We'd love to know all the answers today, but it's just not possible yet."

EORN is owned by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus, which includes 13 municipal governments, of which the County of Haliburton is one.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen sits on the EOWC board.

"It's so perfect that today is a sunny day and we can all be outside and celebrate something that means so much to us all," Danielsen said. "I have been really proud to work with the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the EORN board, as well as their team. It's an extraordinary group of people and they have worked so hard on our behalf, and this is going to mean so much to all of us here in Haliburton County, and in fact all of eastern Ontario, from businesses to our economy to schooling, kids trying to home-school. It just means everything to all of us, and it's truly a great day for Haliburton County."

The request for proposals for the project was issued in April of 2020. According to EORN, 40 per cent of the area it serves does not have access to speeds fast enough to allow the streaming of HD video; 20 per cent does not have access to standard definition video typical mobile app use or video app calling; and 10 per cent has no voice calling service at all.



Minden Hills Mayor and EORN board member Brent Devolin speaks at an announcement regarding the EORN cell gap project in Wilberforce on March 19. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



MP Jamie Schmale, left, Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen, Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton and MPP Laurie Scott during an announcement regarding the next steps of the EORN cell gap project.



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott was in Wilberforce on March 19 to announce that Rogers Communications is receiving the contract for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project, now valued at more than \$300 million.



Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen thanked partners at the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, as well as board members and staff of EORN.

It's been a long time coming in helping produce another piece to that puzzle.

— JAMIE SCHMALE

“

”



Frontline workers line up for their vaccination shots on Thursday, March 18 outside the HHHS vaccination hub.



Frontline workers such as Kelly Lawr line up on Thursday, March 18 outside the HHHS vaccination hub located at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre.
/DARREN LUM Staff

Information on vaccine safety available

from page 1

COVID-19 such as the ingredients in each of the three COVID-19 vaccines.

Lawr, who is an on-call Canada Post worker, was able to get her first of two vaccination doses on the second of two days of vaccinations at the Pinestone because her boss told her, as a frontline worker, she was eligible.

"I figured, you know what? Let's do it," she said.

It's not known when she will receive her second dose, but Kelly believes this first dose will lead back to life before the pandemic.

"I want to see my family. I want to sit down and have a nice get together, whether it be a bonfire or a dinner or something when we can get back together," she said, referring

to loved ones and extended family outside her household.

Off to Kelly's side, her father Philip Lawr had just received his dose.

"I wanted to get it for the same reasons: family and everything else. But you always hear about the horror stories, you know? The reactions, you know. Is there going to be something happen," he said. "I work at the Foodland in Haliburton. I see people come in everyday and there are so many deniers. It's just the cold. It's just this and that. You hear of all these people dying and I know it's more so I have to protect myself and I have to protect my family so, yes."

Coincidentally, he was part of this group to get their vaccination because he was hired at the Haliburton Foodland at the end of July

last year to help temporarily with the implementation of the COVID-19 protocols, such as counting customers coming in and sanitizing high-touch surfaces. It was thought he would only be needed until Christmas.

"If it hadn't been for COVID, I wouldn't be employed and vaccinated," he said.

He adds his elderly parents live down the road and he's only talked to them online.

"This is just a start. It can only get better from here," he said.

Philip was one of 34 Haliburton Foodland employees that received the vaccine, which is about 65 per cent of all staff at the store.

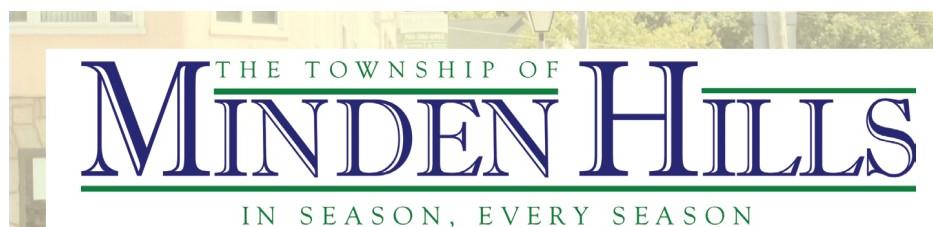
Owner of Todd's Independent Grocer Steven Todd confirmed a social media post about his communication to organizers of the clinic to include grocery staff with the other

front line workers, but it had little influence, as things were in place, he said.

"They had already a plan in place. They did an amazing job in getting it together in a couple days. We got probably 20 staff done ... and hopefully they have another one in the near future and we can get the rest of them," he said.

Todd, who points out he reached out with his pharmacist's connection knowing long-term care residents and staff and vulnerable residents had received the vaccination already, said this is about a quarter of his staff. He adds his staff will see upwards of 12,000 people in a week during the summer.

"The more chance they can keep us safe the less it's going to spread throughout our stores and the community," he said.



(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

- March 25 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 25 – Adoption of 2021 Budget
- April 8 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
- April 8 – Fees and Charges Public Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhill.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhill.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Request For Rates RFR #RDS 21-03 for the Supply, Delivery and Spreading of Liquid Calcium Chloride for Minden Hills, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al and County of Haliburton. Submission deadline is March 30, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Request For Proposal #RDS 21-04 for the provision of One 4x4 Crew Cab, Chassis with Dual Rear Wheels and Aluminum Dump Box with Snow Plow. Submission Deadline is April 6, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Visit www.mindenhill.ca/tenders/ for more information and to download the tender documents.

BUDGET APPROVAL NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills during its Regular Council meeting held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 AM via web conference will consider adopting the following By-laws related to the 2021 Municipal Budget:

- 2021 Budget for the Minden Cemetery Board;
- 2021 Minden Water Rates By-law;
- 2021 Minden Sewer Rates By-law;
- 2021 Lutterworth Water Rates By-law; and
- 2021 Estimates By-law

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk 705-286-1260 ext. 505 tmckibbin@mindenhill.ca

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING FEES AND CHARGES

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 during its Committee of the Whole Meeting via web conference regarding its Fees and Charges By-law.

More information will be provided on the Township's website at a later date.

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 505
tmckibbin@mindenhill.ca

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Buy and sell items in good condition using online classified services. Be sure to meet your seller or buyer in a public place.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Services Clerical Assistant

Reporting to the Director of Community Services, this position provides clerical and administrative support and is responsible for Cemetery sales, bookings, records management and client services; and general administration functions related to departmental operations including facility bookings, accounts payable and accounts receivable. This is a full time, union position, based on a thirty-five (35) hour work week being Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The current rate of pay is \$23.69/hour as per LOCAL 4286 Collective Agreement. Earnings will be subject to Union dues.

Deadline to apply is March 31, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Please visit www.mindenhill.ca/employment-opportunities/ for details on how to apply and to download the complete posting and job description.

Casual Operators

The Community Services Department is looking for Casual Operators to join their team. Casual Operators are responsible for the operation and maintenance of facilities, parks and cemeteries. Non-union position. Hours are based on a maximum of 24 hours/week to a maximum of 48 hours every 2 weeks as well as for occasional special projects with hours being variable shifts. Rate of Pay is \$18.22/hour.

Visit www.mindenhill.ca/employment-opportunities/ for full posting details and job description.

How to Apply: Email cover letter and resume to: sprntce@mindenhill.ca by April 9, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

AH council passes 2021 budget

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 18 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

Councillors passed the township's 2021 budget, which includes \$12.4 million in total spending, \$5.7 million of which will come from property taxation. This represents a levy increase of 4.98 per cent over last year, which will equate to a 3.89 per cent tax rate increase at the lower-tier level for residents. This equates to a \$12.50 increase for every \$100,000 of assessment for residential properties. The township accrued a surplus of approximately \$1 million in 2020, due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in cancelled training and conferences, some reduced wages, as well as deferred projects. The surplus funds are being placed in departmental reserves for the completion of future capital projects.

Landfills up to snuff

Annual monitoring reports for the township's waste disposal sites, conducted by environmental consulting firm Cambium Inc., show the facilities to be in compliance with regulations from the Ministry of Environment, Parks and Conservation. The report for the Pine Springs landfill shows it has a remaining life span of more than 100 years. However, as environmental co-ordinator Melissa Murray pointed out, with the impending closure of the Hawk Lake landfill, that life span forecast may be subject to change, as residents who've traditionally used the Hawk Lake location will be taking their garbage to other waste disposal sites.

"We'll see how quickly it catches up," said Mayor Carol Moffatt.

The township is scheduled to close the Hawk Lake landfill, which has reached capacity, to the public on Oct. 16 of this year. A staff report indicated that while all closure activities are mandated to be completed by March of 2023, the township intends to perform the bulk of that site work in 2022. "Clean-up of blown litter in the forest immediately surrounding the site will be planned for completion as part of site closure activities," the report reads.

COVID-19 cancellation refund

Council approved amendments to fees and charges for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails campsite network. In the event of another provincially mandated lockdown related to the COVID-19 pandemic, a full refund will be issued for sites

reserved during that time period, minus a non-refundable reservation surcharge.

Committee meetings remain paused

The township's advisory committees have not been meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and council discussed the possibility of having committee meetings resume in an online format. Algonquin Highlands council and other councils in the county have been meeting electronically for nearly the past year, with councillors and staff participating remotely via conferencing app Zoom, and the meetings broadcast to the public on YouTube.

A staff report laid out three options, those being to stay with the status quo for the time being; resume committee meetings using Zoom but not live-stream on YouTube; or to hold meetings via Zoom and live-stream them on YouTube, as is done with meetings of council.

The report indicated that with the exception of the Dorset museum committee, meetings would not entail extra staff time as all other committees have staff members on them. The clerk's department would be responsible for scheduling and hosting meetings.

"It's very easy at the front end to say, we'll send out a Zoom link and have a chat, and that's not the case" said Mayor Carol Moffatt. "It's a bit onerous, to a certain degree. So my big question to council is, is there anything that's really urgent that committees need to be doing at the moment, considering things are still closed?"

Councillors reluctantly agreed that the logistical hurdles,

internet connectivity issues and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic could cause complications.

"I feel kind of bad saying this, but I almost think we should go with Option 1 and do nothing at this time," said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen. "I just don't think that it's the right time for us. We're going into what's being called a third wave of the pandemic, we've still got declarations of emergency, and it sounds to me like there are just one or two too many complications with trying to organize this. I think that if there was really, truly a big decision that the committees needed to weigh in on, I think there's other ways of doing that, rather than starting regular meetings at this point in time."

Councillor Julia Shortreed pointed out that a lot of committee work has to do with events. "We're at a point now where we don't know going forward what's going to happen, so I really can't see anything productive coming out of so much effort," Shortreed said.

Highland Wood COVID-19 outbreak resolved

The Highland Wood COVID-19 outbreak has been declared over.

The outbreak status was declared March 16, 2021 when two staff members received positive results from surveillance testing.

The staff members who received positive test results were re-swabbed as per protocol and both received negative results today.

HKPRDHU opted to take a conservative approach with the positive results yesterday given the increase in positive cases currently in our community.

"We appreciate this cautious approach to ensure the safety of our residents," says Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS.

Highland Wood residents were all swabbed yesterday as directed by HKPRDHU and these results have all been reported as negative as well. With these negative results, HKPRDHU re-evaluated the status of the outbreak and determined that Highland Wood no longer met the criteria for outbreak.

HHHS will continue to closely monitor residents and continue with rigorous infection prevention measures. Out of an abundance of caution the two staff members will continue to self-isolate for 14 days and screening frequency will be increased for all Highland Wood staff and essential caregivers, who provide important physical and emotional support to long-term care residents. Residents will now be able to resume socially distant activities within the home.

-Staff



Gourmet To-Go

This week's feature is Easter Dinner with available Easter Brunch add-on! Order by noon on Monday, March 29 for pick-up April 2-3.

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Vaccination consent forms available throughout Minden

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

COVID-19 screening and consent forms are available to be picked up at locations throughout Minden.

The Minden Rotary Club has been distributing the forms throughout town, and they are currently available at TD Canada Trust, the Minden Legion, Valu-Mart, Foodland, On The Spot Variety, Molly's Bistro Bakery,

Organic Times, and the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

"This is beneficial to those in our community that may not have access to the necessary computer resources," Minden Rotary president Dave Bonham told the *Times*. "... Filling out the form in advance and taking it with you to your appointment will save time for you and lighten the load on the staff at the vaccination clinic."

The form is also available in PDF format on the Minden Rotary Club's website at <http://www.mindenrotary.ca/>



Riding out winter

Minden Hills resident Russ Duhaime rides his fatbike across a bridge on Friday, March 19 at Snowden Park. With temperatures dropping below minus 9 Celsius the night before, the trails at the park were firm and ideal to stay on top of the snow. Duhaime used the ride to test out a new vest expected to be released this May by Minden-based Tekrider. / DARREN LUM Staff

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Third wave

AT THIS POINT it's almost a familiar feeling, a sense of "here we go again," watching new daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario approach 2,000.

Spring is here and so is a third wave of virus – hopefully the last of the pandemic in this country.

Heading into our second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, face masks, social distancing, and copious amounts of hand-washing have become so commonplace for most of us that these things don't feel strange anymore. It's also become easier to live in the bubble of your own daily life, allowing the swirling maelstrom of the pandemic, with its associated language, press conferences and its domination of news cycles, to form a sort of background din to one's day-to-day activities. The pandemic has, to some degree, unless the virus has personally impacted your health, become easier to ignore.

It's important, though, to remember that we are dealing with a deadly and mutating enemy, one which, to date, has killed more than 2.7 million people worldwide. 2.7 million lives. That's exactly the population of the City of Toronto.

If you are a younger adult, someone in their 20s, 30s or 40s, it's become easier to believe that, while you could obviously become a carrier of the virus at any time, that your own personal health is not at any great risk. And while the first and second waves of the pandemic have proven the deadliest for elderly populations, epidemiologists are warning that the third wave is spurred at least partially by new

"variants of concern" – mutations of the virus – which are proving to be more dangerous for more younger adults than the initial strain.

While the second wave rose as the autumn brought shorter and colder days, the third wave comes as days are getting longer and warmer, and that brings with it some comfort. The weather provides an easier escape from our homes, with more of us more inclined to spend more time outside, putting in flowerbeds and gardens, sitting on patios, or hiking through the spring woods.

The biggest difference this time around, though, is of course the vaccine. There are now multiple brands of vaccine being distributed throughout the world, with millions of doses expected to arrive in

Canada this week. On the ground in Haliburton County, healthcare and frontline workers as well as first responders have received their first vaccinations. Inoculations of the general public are getting underway at designated vaccination clinics in the community, beginning this week with those aged 80 and older. Who'd have suspected two years ago, when the old Minden arena was being torn down, that the first time inside the new one for many of us would be to get a needle shoved into our arm?

While it will likely still be several months until those of us lower on the priority list get our opportunity to register for vaccinations, there is a great sense of hope as our grandparents and parents begin to get the vaccine. There is a sense of hope that maybe we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Here comes the sun. Hold on.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor

IN OTHER WORDS

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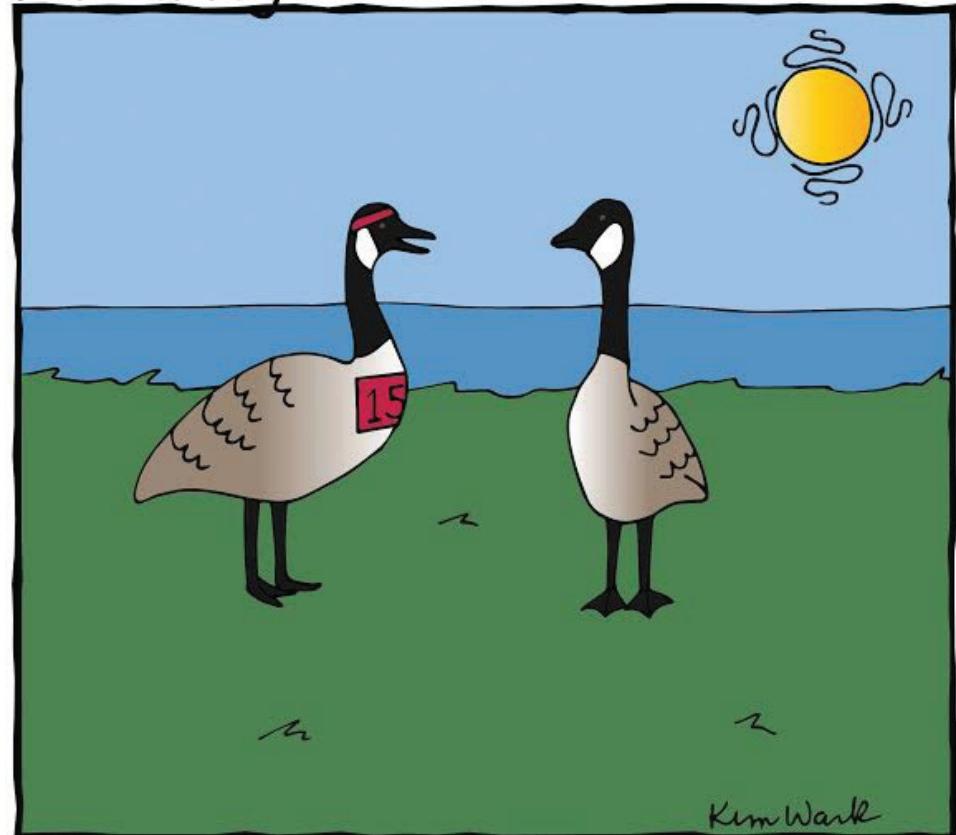
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Kwarky



Kim Wank

"Only Mexico? Amateur. I'm flying to Antarctica."

A little advice on log cabins

TWO DAYS ago, I took down a dead hemlock about eight inches in diameter and about 30 feet high. I told Jenn this was because it was leaning towards the picture windows of our house, just a little too much for my liking. In reality, it was because I bought a new folding camp saw and was bored.

And whenever an outdoorsman is bored, cutting wood is the cure. If you don't believe this, remember, we are the ones who perfected whittling and wood piles.

A new cutting implement in the hands of a bored outdoorsman is hell on the local forests.

This is not because we outdoorsy types hold resentment to all the trees that have conspired to let flushing grouse fly off unharmed. Although, I will admit, that shortly after dropping the tree, I looked into the forest and whispered, "Let this be a lesson to you all."

No, it is because buried deep in the heart of every outdoorsman, there is a burning desire to yell "Timber!" at least once and actually mean it. By the way, you know you have cut down a tree correctly, when "timber" is not used to describe what the shed has become after the tree has fallen.

I'm not sure why we have the urge to yell "Timber!" but I suspect it has something to do with the fact that we were subjected to far too many Paul Bunyan stories in our childhood.

To a child of my era, a Paul Bunyan type of life seemed pretty good, I guess. He was big, muscular, well-liked, had a cool blue ox that he, apparently, never had to clean up after – and songs written about him. But



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

mostly, Bunyan got to run around with a cool, sharp object slung over his shoulder all day long, which ensured no one was ever going to make him take a bath. He basically lived a perfect life.

Paul Bunyan aside, I can tell you there is a certain pride that comes with felling a tree, especially when you realize that in doing so, you can now honestly tell your other outdoorsy friends that you finally started building that log cabin you always dreamed about.

It doesn't matter that you will never cut another log, either. What matters is that you can forevermore refer to your log cabin construction experience whenever the subject comes up – which is whenever a group of outdoorsmen meet – and dispense practical folksy advice, such as "When it comes to log cabins, my philosophy is take your time and do it right."

People listen to this because the ultimate dream of every outdoorsman is to build a log cabin deep in the woods that you can slip away to whenever the lawn needs mowing.

Log cabins also conjure up romantic images of self-sufficiency, tranquil settings and rugged individualism. Plus, they are far more comfortable to hide in than a shed.

The point here is that one of the best things an outdoorsman can do is get himself a sharp implement that is capable of cutting down a tree, so you can finally cross yelling an authentic "Timber!" off of your bucket list and start that log cabin you always dreamed about.

But, if I could offer just a word of advice: when it comes to log cabins, my philosophy is take your time and do it right.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Creating happiness

FEELING UNHAPPY?

FMany Canadians are. We just placed 15th on the latest United Nations' World Happiness Index. That's down from eighth three years ago.

Well, cheer up. You can take a course to get happy.

There's an online course titled The Science of Well-Being and is adapted from the Yale University course Psychology and the Good Life. It is touted as one of the most popular courses offered by Yale in its 320-year history.

I've never taken any of the many happiness courses out there. In fact, I wonder why anyone would spend time and money on learning to be happy? Wouldn't the energy be best spent on finding what makes us not happy in the first place?

The daily news provides insights into reasons for unhappiness.

COVID-19 obviously is a major reason for much unhappiness. It has most of us worried (if not downright panicked) about catching the virus. With good reason – 123 million cases worldwide and 2.7 million deaths.

Then there are all the terrible side effects: business losses, unemployment, lost education opportunities, increased crime and mental illness and many others.

Plus, worry about the future. How will we recover from COVID-19's economic disasters? How will our kids' education change? How will future work change? Are more viruses coming and will they be worse than this one? Will we be as unprepared as we were for this one?

On top of all that, climate change news is causing unhappiness about the future. More people (except the "fake news" numbskulls) are realizing that changes in the world's climate are a genuine threat to civilization as we have known it.

Arctic ice is disappearing, oceans are rising, wind patterns are changing. Temperatures are warming, notably in the Canadian north.

Climate change is tied to human abuse of our planet. The abuse is not just with carbon dioxide emissions and industrial pollution. A walk along springtime roadsides littered with bottles, cans, coffee cups tells a story of human lack of respect for nature.

Climate change threatens massive upheaval in the world population. Where do people go if coastal cities become uninhabitable because of rising oceans? How will warmer temperatures affect agriculture and the millions of people who depend on it?

Also, our capitalist system is creating little sustained happiness. It probably is the best system for us but has gone out of control and needs reforming.

We rely on our governments to make reforms by tackling issues that create unhappy citizens. Governments, however, have become more intrusive, more confused and yet less effective. The pandemic has magnified and brought government ineffectiveness into clearer focus.

Few governments have the dynamic, clear-eyed leadership needed to deal effectively with today's serious challenges and those of the future.

Government leadership is overwhelmed, trying to please many factions instead of being decisive and hitting problems head on. Our leaders place more emphasis on partisan politics than on getting the work done.

We need leaders like the young private sector executives who are building new companies with out-of-the-box thinking not shackled by political thinking.

We don't have that type of leadership in our federal or provincial governments.

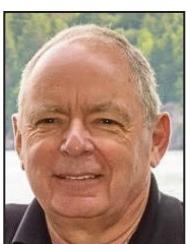
Federally we have a prime minister who is a nice young man who talks softly and at length without ever saying anything. The Conservative opposition leader can't get his own party to say what it stands for and the New Democrats ... do they still have a leader or is he simply invisible?

We need leaders – I don't care what they label themselves politically – who build solutions without worrying about personal and party re-election.

We don't need courses to show us how to be happy. Maybe the reason for our unhappiness is knowing that as individuals we could be doing more to help overcome these problems and we aren't. We are too wrapped up in our individual lives.

Our best chance for increasing happiness lies in becoming better informed about the issues and getting involved with the efforts for change. A big part of that is finding, promoting and electing innovative leaders with the talents and skills to make all our lives better.

Happiness is created. To create more of it, we all need to get more informed, more involved and more creative.



JIM POLING SR.

From *Shaman's Rock*

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Iodine

ICAN'T SAY that I give a lot of thought to the amount of iodine I'm consuming. I'm only thinking (and writing) about it now because it came up during a workout session with a client. She was experiencing physical changes that led to a blood test that revealed she was suffering from an iodine deficiency. Iodine is an element that is needed for the production of thyroid hormones. These hormones have an important role in the regulation of weight, energy levels, internal body temperatures and the growth of skin, hair and nails. Signs of an iodine deficiency can include:

- Feeling tired
- Weight gain
- Feeling cold
- Muscles/Joint weakness and aches
- Hair loss
- Itchy/dry skin

Iodine is a trace element present in the earth. The human body does not produce iodine so we have to get it from other sources. Common sources are fish and dairy products. Here's a more comprehensive list:

- Seaweed
- Fish - especially cod
- Dairy - the amount of iodine is dependent on the iodine content of the feed given to the cattle
- Shrimp
- Tuna
- Eggs - again, this dependent on the iodine content of feed given to the chickens



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

- Prunes
- Lima beans

Inland areas tend to have fewer sources of natural occurring iodine. That's why it was added to table salt. That makes table salt the most convenient method to get iodine into our bodies. Of course, that creates a double-edged sword situation. We need iodine but generally speaking we tend to consume far too much salt and that leads to other health problems. Sadly, there are no easy answers. It's a matter of paying attention to what we're eating and how we're feeling.

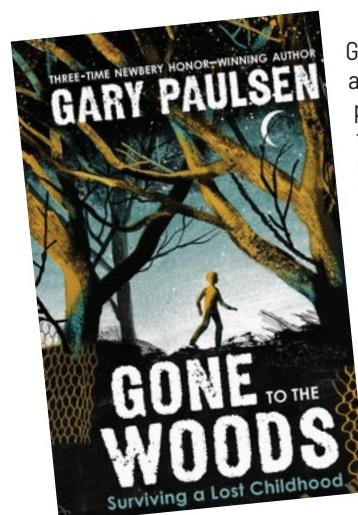
Of late, there has been a real push to use sea salt instead of table salt. It might be time to rethink that idea. It doesn't have to be all or nothing. The recommended daily amount of iodine for adults is 150 mcg (microgram). In the

United States (couldn't find information for Canada) there is 45 mcg of iodine in a gram (between 1/8 and 1/4 teaspoon) of table salt. The best option might be to ensure that we're consuming foods that contain iodine and add a bit of iodized salt to them. It might take a bit of experimenting. Guess it's time to check out some seaweed recipes!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

HCPL's Non-fic Pick - March



Author of the juvenile fiction *Hatchet* series, the name Gary Paulson is synonymous with high-stakes, coming-of-age, wilderness survival stories. Now, this beloved author portrays a series of life-altering moments from his own turbulent childhood as his own original survival story. If not for his summer escape from a shockingly neglectful Chicago upbringing to a North Woods homestead at age five, there never would have been a *Hatchet*. Without the encouragement of the librarian who handed him his first book at age thirteen, he may never have become a reader. And without his desperate teenage enlistment in the military, he would not have discovered his true calling as a storyteller. A moving and enthralling story of grit and growing up, *Gone to the Woods* is perfect for newcomers and lifelong Paulson fans alike. This is the acclaimed author at his rawest and most real. Check out *Gone to the Woods* from Haliburton County Public Library. It'll take you away.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
chad@haliburtonpress.com

'Nobody's going to be left behind' as vaccine clinics begin

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held March 17, and a board of health meeting held March 18.

One vaccination clinic in each Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes began last week, with one vaccination clinic beginning in Haliburton County this week, and all six of the clinics set up throughout the region operating by April 5.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, told board of health members last week that 1,000 doses of vaccine had been given to Haliburton Highlands Health Services to use both for high-risk healthcare workers and also for people over the age of 80.

"I think if we had all the vaccine in the world we could clearly be immunizing faster," he said, noting the wait for availability of vaccine. "It's not hanging around in freezers, it's all being spoken for."

All long-term care residents who wish to have the vaccine have been vaccinated, said Gemmill, adding that the health unit would be looking into immunizations at retirement homes this week.

During the board of health meeting, it was announced that A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton would be the second location for a vaccination clinic in Haliburton County, alongside S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden.

Gemmill said the health unit was receiving about 6,000 vaccines a week - 1,000 vaccines

per clinic per week – or about 200 per day if a clinic runs five days, which he said is "pretty meagre."

"I wish we had more vaccine to be able to do more people now, we don't," he said. "I'm really looking forward to the point in time where we can really ramp this up even more. We can do hundreds of people a day, maybe thousands of people a day, at six clinics, if we have the vaccine."

Gemmill has said numerous times that his priority is ensuring there is one vaccine for every appointment being made, so residents don't encounter a problem seen elsewhere in the province in which supply has not been available for appointments made.

"That's why I think a way of doing this bit by bit, even though it may be frustrating for some of our residents, is a better way of doing it so that when they get an appointment they know they're going to get a shot," said Gemmill. "The message to the elderly people: Please be patient, everyone's going to get their vaccine. Be patient, everybody is going to get the chance to get this vaccine, nobody's going to be left behind."

Haliburton County reports increase in COVID-19 after case-free month

"In Haliburton [County], we've had some activity over the last little while," said Gemmill, in discussing cases in the health region which includes Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County. "About 15 per cent of the cases now have occurred in Haliburton County in the last 14 days. That's a little bit of a change

because Haliburton had been relatively quiet for the better part of a month, actually so this is a new development."

At press time on March 23, there were 7 current cases of confirmed COVID-19 in Haliburton County, including one case in a staff member at Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden and two cases in students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, 66 local cases have been confirmed. One variant of concern has been identified.

"It does, however, reinforce a point that I really want to make with [media] and the public, which is that, you never know where this pandemic is going, and just because things are quiet for awhile doesn't mean it's over. It just means that it's quiet for awhile," Gemmill said.

He added that in the past few weeks there have been more variants of concern – more highly transmissible mutations of the virus – reported in the health unit region, as well as in the province – about half of the cases reported in Ontario are identified as variant cases.

"In this area it's not quite 50 per cent that

are variants of concern, but ... we almost have to deal with it as though every case is a variant of concern."

As he does each week, Gemmill reminded the public that, "we're not out of the woods yet, things can change on a dime." He referenced outbreaks at a student residence in Peterborough and at Queen's University.

"It doesn't take very much, just a few ill-advised gatherings, and that kind of thing, and the next thing you know, we're putting out fires everywhere," he said.

Learn more online

For more information, watch the most recent Talk with the Doc session, held March 16, or sign up for the next session on March 30 at <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/02/09/sign-up-for-talk-with-the-doc-virtual-townhall/>. Visit the health unit's website at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca> for most updated information, including a Click and Connect feature that offers residents the chance to ask a question, report a complaint or check the most recent case count and the number of vaccines given.

County	COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	7	55	0	66	58	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	9	32	0	567	516	29	42	13
Northumberland	10	84	0	479	457	17	12	0
Total***	26	189	0	1,112	1,031	49	55	13

Local COVID-19 cases decrease from double digits

Seven current cases of confirmed COVID-19 remain unresolved on March 23, including four new cases added on March 22. One variant of concern has been identified locally. For more info visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca> /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

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Parent council launches petition to maintain Learn@Home program

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A group of parents throughout the school district region were dismayed to learn last week that the Learn@Home program likely won't be returning to Trillium Lakelands District School Board [TLDSB] for the 2021/22 school year, and have launched a petition in the hopes of extending at-home learning modules.

Kyra Evans is one of 16 parents currently sitting on the TLDSB Learn@Home parent council. She has spent months advocating for the program after watching her daughter "blossom" during her time learning at home.

"This has been like a detox period for her," Evans said of her daughter, who is in Grade 6.

Having moved to Muskoka from Toronto four years ago, Evans said her daughter struggled after being enrolled in a private elementary school. She was, according to Evans, relentlessly bullied and eventually had to be pulled from the school. She started attending Riverside Public School in Huntsville last February and had a "positive experience," but when COVID-19 hit one month later and schools were closed, she found herself back at square one.

When TLDSB launched its Learn@Home program in September, Evans thought she'd give it a shot.

"Almost immediately, my daughter formed connections with classmates and her teacher beyond what she experienced at in-person school," Evans said. "Learning in a quiet environment provided her with greater concentration power, improving her grades and increasing her academic confidence."

It was a blow then when, last week, Evans found out TLDSB isn't planning to offer its Learn@Home program next year.

Wes Hahn, TLDSB director of education, sent a notice out to parents last Wednesday [March 17] stating the board was planning to reintegrate the approximately 1,500 students currently enrolled in Learn@Home back into the classroom.

"At this time our planning is going to be on the assumption that all students will be back in schools for in-person learning at the beginning of September,"

Hahn said. "This means that all students will be enrolled for in-person at-school learning in their home school."

Hahn said that at-home remote learning "may be considered" if school boards receive direction from the Ministry of Education, or if concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic are raised by public health officials.

Evans believes there's another voice that should be taken into account – those of the students.

"Many of the children in my daughter's class have shared with her that they have also been bullied in brick-and-mortar school. Thus, there are many like-minded kids, all happy to be in an environment where they don't feel the need to watch their back all the time," Evans said. "Anyone who was bullied in school remembers what it's like to spend your days always on edge, waiting for the next incident in which you'll need to defend yourself. When this level of 'fight, flight or freeze' is constantly on, it interferes with your ability to learn and grow."

"By contrast, at the Learn@Home program, my daughter has connected to her self-worth again. She has a newfound understanding that she has a lot to offer as a friend, and that in the past the problem was never her. The problem was the toxic environment she was in," she added.

Evans said she has heard several similar stories from other parents in recent weeks and months. Since the Learn@Home parent council is not allowed to discuss any efforts to maintain the program in any official meeting capacity, the decision was made to launch a petition to get the word out there. As of press time, the petition had been signed by 43 individuals.

"Other larger, urban boards such as Ottawa and Toronto have announced their intention to keep the Learn@Home program, placing rural students at a distinct disadvantage. It's our opinion that every student in Ontario should have access to virtual learning, regardless of their geographic location," Evans said.

"The Learn@Home program has had myriad benefits beyond health and safety and therefore should be kept even after the pandemic is over."

To learn more about the petition, visit you.leadnow.ca/petitions/save-learn-home-across-ontario.

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Climate change demonstrators hit the streets

by DARRREN LUM
Times Staff

Quietly, demonstrators stood on the sidewalks, lined on either side of Bobcaygeon Road in the heart of Minden's downtown, holding signs with slogans for a healthier world and questions challenging the government for passerbys to read and consider, related to combating climate change.

Organized by Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County, the climate change demonstration started with a little more than a dozen masked men and women, physically distanced, to do their part in raising awareness locally related to the FridaysforFuture Global Day of Climate Action held around

the world on March 19.

Bonnie Roe, organizer of the local event in Minden, said this event is about keeping the public connected to the issues of climate change, which still persist during the pandemic, and how a little action can go a long way to helping the cause.

"Anything any of us can do is what we're trying to promote awareness about and that can be simply the appliances you buy, reusing plastic bags, not buying disposable water bottles, reducing waste in the landfill sites, you know, walking more," she said. "We can all do something and I think that's what's important. It's pretty important we come together in solidarity and we need to push our governments to do something and that's why the theme this time is

#NOMOREEMPTYPROMISES. That's the whole thing because that's all we got. The government [says they] will be doing something in 2030 or 2050, but we need it now and that's why other groups like ourselves and across the world are protesting today."

Among the demonstrators that came to the Minden downtown between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. was Sheila Ziman. She stood on the bridge, holding her sign encouraging the

protection of wetlands and said combating climate change requires education and that's why she came out.

"I think the more people understand the relationship between a healthy environment and healthy people the better it is. Also, how serious a problem climate change is now. When I first moved here about 34 years ago

see MEMBERS page 11

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Climate change demonstrator Sheila Ziman of Minden holds her sign, expressing concern for wetlands during a demonstration in downtown Minden on Friday, March 19. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Members concerned about damage to wetlands

from page 10

there was a lot more snow. There were a lot more days that were colder. I can remember weeks when it was below minus 20, minus 25, so you could see [the change]. If you ask the old timers, they can tell you how the climate has changed," she said.

She adds, 34 years ago gardening was challenged with multiple frosts, but now that has been reduced and there are at least three frost-free months.

Ziman is also concerned about the provincial government's handling of protected areas such as provincially significant wetlands, as determined by the science-based ranking system known as the Wetland Evaluation System, which informs Ontario's land use planning process.

"Because wetlands are so important in terms of storing carbon and we have so many wetlands in Haliburton, it's really important for me that we maintain that protection. It's part education. It's part concern over what the government is doing in terms of walking back protections and disrespecting the protection they previously afforded wetlands," she said.

One example that recently grabbed headlines was how the Ford government granted a minister's zoning order (MZO) in October to allow for construction of an Amazon warehouse on Pickering wetlands near Duffins Creek, which is designated as provincially significant.

It's reported Amazon had considered building a retail warehouse there, but did not sign a lease for the property and has decided against using the site because of environmental concerns. A spokesperson for Amazon said they did not request the MZO.

Ziman said it angers her when she sees wetlands get destroyed throughout Haliburton County because of the adverse effect it has, particularly in areas such as Minden where flooding has been an issue.

"Wetlands are like sponges so they hold that water and then they slowly release it so that's important, but they're also important, and I think people forget this, for drinking water because they help recharge the aquifers and it's important to keep the quality of our drinking water good," she said. "So, people sometimes forget that and they got a wetland on their property and they'll just fill it. Dump the ol' fridge in there and then their well is not too far away and so they forget that can lead to pollution of their drinking water. So, it's all really important to protect wetlands."

The inspiration for FridaysforFuture is related to teen activist Greta Thunberg, who

started protesting the Swedish government on Fridays in August, 2018. There was also local inspiration by local teen activist Jurgen Shantz of Haliburton, who held four climate change protests outside the Dysart municipal offices, Roe said.

The day's effort didn't just include demonstrations in groups out in public, but also included people posting to social media to raise awareness and demonstrate the threat climate change poses. Although the Minden demonstration was capped at 25 people, Roe said, there were some potential demonstrators who weren't able to make the event in Minden because of maple syrup production

commitments.

Roe said there will be an effort to hold demonstrations like this throughout the county in the future rather than with past recent demonstrations, which were held in the village of Haliburton because the Concerned Citizens looked to encourage high school students and young people to join them.

Encouraging youth involvement will continue though, she adds.

"It's their future," she said.

For more information and how to be part of future efforts email Concerned Citizens at info@concernedcitizenshc.ca.

“

*If you ask the old timers,
they can tell you how the
climate has changed.*

— Sheila Ziman

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Public invited to first virtual Celebration of Research

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

U-Links is inviting the public to its first ever virtual Celebration of Research, featuring 30 community-based research projects including the topics of biodiversity protection, shoreline stewardship and biomonitoring from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 on the Zoom platform.

The no-fee event moderated by not-for-profit Art of Festivals director, Fanny Martin is a showcase of student research efforts for local community organizations such as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the non-government organization, The Land Between, and local cottagers' associations.

Amanda Duncombe-Lee, U-Links program co-ordinator, said this event is a long-standing annual U-Links tradition and gives the public insight to students' work.

"We just see it as a really good opportunity for the public to connect about important research that's happening in Haliburton County in the areas of the environment, socio-cultural and economic [areas]," she said.

The event's presentations will start with a few sessions in the main room, and once those are completed there will be additional sessions held in breakout rooms, featuring the remaining student presenters.

Fourth-year Trent University student in conservation biology Leanne Matthews is part of the opening group of students in the main room, who will present her findings after studying benthic invertebrates at seven sites on Kennesis Lake since September. This was part of a group effort where 11 lakes in the area (17 in total in the Haliburton region) are being studied in what is year two of a five year study.

"Right now, we're just kind of collecting enough data over the next few years to create that baseline so we can start saying like, 'Oh, something is wrong here. Or, they're doing something really great. The lake looks amazing,'" she said.

A benthic invertebrate is an organism without a backbone that lives in or on the bottom sediments of rivers, streams and lakes. It includes such aquatic larval insects as mayflies, and also mussels and snails. She adds

examining these invertebrates helps to provide a health profile of a lake.

"By understanding how these communities work and how they live in the lakes and how they are affected by pollution then we can understand the community of the lake as a whole so that would impact fish populations, which in turn would affect like angler involvement and fishing activities ... so they're one of the more central focuses of lake health," she said.

There were more than a thousand invertebrates collected and brought back to the lab to be identified, organized into groups and used to provide scores on lake health, she adds. She continues, invertebrates with a high intolerance to pollution have a high score and those intolerant have a low score. Leeches and snails have high intolerance while mayflies are less tolerant and serve as "key indicator species."

"What's missing can sometimes tell us more about the lake than what's present," she said.

Environmental and resource science Trent University student Samantha Dunlop will be in one of the breakout rooms to present Biodiversity Planning and Protection in the Land Between project: understanding the levels and opportunities for environmental protection at the municipal level in the land between bio-region.

From September, she worked on the identifying what the municipal bylaws or the "policy levers" that are within an official plan

related to environmental features in a given municipality such as areas as trees, setbacks, shorelines, brown fields, green space, night lighting, noise, zoning bylaws for the Land Between.

"We're able to identify the different by-laws that say give direction on tree preservation, or establish buffers between lakes and different buildings or roads and things like that," she said.

Dunlop said this project is "creating an inventory of those policy levers that we know what's what and what's where and then doing a content analysis of those policy levers we're able to identify more themes and understand what they mean. From there a gap analysis can be done in the future," she said.

It's important, she said, to point out the gap analysis is not part of the scope of her work.

Dunlop said the the Land Between has planned to present this information to the municipalities, but for this event the hope is to raise ideas in the community.

"At least during the Celebration of Research, we're hoping that this will inspire people to think about some of the bylaws and things in place and think about gaps. Maybe somebody from Peterborough is going to look at it and go, 'Oh, we don't have that specific policy lever to protect that sort of habitat so it's that local level of awareness and action,' she said.

After the presentations and breakout ses-

see REGISTRATION page 15



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT An electronic meeting will be held **Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended by Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 and an Order in Council of March 28, 2020, which amended the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and prohibits organized public events of more than five people.

The media and the general public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/dwYH5xMLpnA>

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-002/21
Applicant: A. Lloyd Murphy
Location of the Property: Pt Lot 11, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden, Township of Minden Hills
Nature of the Application: Easement for Right-of-Way
2. File No. H-008/21
Applicant: Lonny and Joann Kubas
Location of the Property: Pt Lot 2, Concession 13 and 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon, Township of Minden Hills
Nature of the Application: New Lot
3. File No. H-009/21
Applicant: Lonny and Joann Kubas
Location of the Property: Pt Lot 2, Concession 13 and 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon, Township of Minden Hills
Nature of the Application: New Lot

Additional information regarding the above applications is available for public inspection electronically by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 24 day of March, 2021.

Lisa Gillan
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street, P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
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	8		7	
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	7	9		6
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3		4	1	9
6				3 1

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Answers on page 16



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Citizen scientists find common goal against Eurasian watermilfoil

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Eurasian Watermilfoil Working Group is hoping that in spreading awareness of the invasive species, the spreading of the aquatic plant itself can be reduced.

The group, a sub-committee of the Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners' Association (DSLPOA), has been working to control the local spread of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) with a project that has raised more than \$40,000 toward a \$50,000 goal so far through donations from property owners.

"It is an all-hands-on-deck kind of problem that will benefit from if we're all helping out," said Jim Miners, vice-president of the DSLPOA and member of the working group. "It's an important project, it's a project that needs everybody on board to support it. We're happy to have people's donations, we're happy to have people's involvement as volunteers, and all we can do is ask."

Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive, alien aquatic plant that is a perennial native in Europe, Asia and northern Africa but has spread to every continent except Antarctica, according to a presentation made by Miners to help educate lake associations, organizations and the general public about the plant. It was first identified in North America in the 19th century, and in Ontario in Lake Erie, in 1961. A look at EDDMapS, which tracks invasive species sightings, shows that the plant is prevalent throughout North America – and four known outbreaks on Drag Lake are included in that tally.

The first outbreak in Drag Lake was identified near Harris Beach, in 2015, by Mike Podmore, who passed away earlier this year.

"He was dedicated to this project, he was known on the lake as somebody who loved the lake and everything about the lake, and wanted to do what he could to protect the natural beauty and the natural elements of the lake," said Miners.

Podmore brought the plant to the attention of lake steward Bert Bicknell, who began educating himself on Eurasian watermilfoil and finding out what others were doing to control it.

"Most lake associations who are dealing with this problem are treating this as a problem they are going to be dealing with forever," said Miners. "It's not a matter of getting rid of EWM, it's a matter of controlling the spread and the growth of EWM. And most lake associations will tell you, if you can control it, you've been successful."

The problems posed by the perennial, which grows under the water surface, are many: it spreads quickly and grows densely, causes odour as it decays, impedes growth of native plants and harms habitat, and can cause swimmers and boats to become entangled.

"There are stories of boats going into [Frenchman's Bay in Pickering] and just stopping dead because the motor's tangled, or the sailboat can't get through," said Miners. "It's not a pretty story."

Additionally, it can cause waterfront property value to drop as much as 15 per cent.

After understanding the importance of dealing with EWM outbreaks, the working group began researching and planning to control its spread, working with technical support from The Canadian Centre for Invasive Species, The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, U-Links (Trent U and Fleming College) and other lake associations.

"One of the things we've learned is that anyone working on this for more than a year is happy to share with anybody else,

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5	9	4	1	3	8	7	6	2
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8	5	6	7	1	3	9	2	4
2	7	1	3	8	9	6	4	5
3	8	5	6	4	1	2	7	9
6	4	9	2	7	5	8	3	1



Eurasian watermilfoil, which grows under the surface of the water, blooms in late July and early August. / Photo by Mike Podmore

what they've discovered," said Miners.

The DSLPOA applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2017 to allow the property owners' association to install biodegradable matting over the outbreak at Harris Beach to reduce photosynthesis and thus suppress further growth and propagation of the weed, a solution that is deemed most effective (cutting the plants risks further outbreaks with the creation of fragments). That project was approved in 2019 for a very specific time period – between July 16 and October 1, in 2020 and required extensive work in enlisting volunteers, fundraising and finding commercial dive teams who could help lay coconut fibre matting on top of the watermilfoil to see how it might be controlled from spreading further out. With that done – 13 coconut fibre mats were laid over one outbreak – the group plans to monitor if the project was successful – in part with an underwater camera that can give the group a close-up look at how the cover is working. If it proves to be effective, it's one the group hopes to use again on the other outbreaks of the weed that have been identified in Drag Lake.

"We're turning everybody on the lake who's interested into a citizen scientist. Get out there in your kayak, get out there in your canoe, or your paddleboard or whatever, go along the shoreline, here's what you're looking for. The pictures are pretty clear, it's going to look like this, and if you find it, don't break it, whatever you do. Let us know. Citizen science is a good term, we're also seeing it as a great community builder around the two lakes. There's a common goal now for people to get behind."

That common goal has led to 252 concerned property owners helping to contribute to the fund – some more than

once – to keep EWM under control, with Miners saying that 250 property owners still have yet to contribute.

"We're trying to be creative in terms of getting them to accept that this is a problem that everyone needs to be concerned about," he said. "This sounds a bit trite. But the weed is working 24/7. It's planning what it's going to do this summer. So if we're not planning what we're going to do this summer, we don't stand a chance."

Besides protecting Drag Lake, Miners said it's important to help stop the weed from spreading into Spruce Lake, and to other lakes through boats that are used on different waterways. He believes that it's not necessarily a problem only affecting Drag Lake.

"If we continue to find other outbreaks, and we're to report all of them, then all of a sudden we look like the worst lake in Haliburton County on [the EDDMapS tracker]," he said. "It's a fine line. Ask me if I believe there's EWM in every lake in Haliburton County and I will say, I think it's more likely that it's in every lake than that it's not in every lake. People don't know what they're looking for. We didn't know what we were looking for, here."

Miners has added grant writing to his to-do list, looking for funding support to help projects like what the DSLPOA has initiated. While the efforts in the past year have been successful, he wants to ensure the project is sustainable, without property owners fundraising each year if more outbreaks occur.

"It's life's worth, job security," he said of the weed. "If you're in the business of controlling EWM, you've got work for a lifetime. It's not a short-term project by any means, and everybody who gets into it, every lake association who gets into it finds that out very quickly."

On March 23, Miners and Rick Wesselman presented to Dysart council regarding how the EWM group and the municipality might work together on the project. On March 28, the EWM group is hosting a Zoom meeting with representatives of Dysart council, the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations and Dysart lake associations to further discuss the project.

For more information about the local Eurasian watermilfoil project or the Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners' Association, visit <https://www.dragandsprucelakes.ca/>.

Registration required ahead of event

from page 12

sions, there will be a networking cafe available for an informal virtual chat about the projects.

"That's one of the organic processes that happens at the in-person Celebration of Research. It's that coming together of the community to talk about the research and maybe there might be an employment for a student that's there, or someone wants a follow-up project idea," she said.

Duncombe-Lee said it was important to have an event this year after the short-notice cancellation of last year's Celebration of Research.

"We're just working extra hard this year to put together, hopefully, a dynamic and engaging event that we want to basically bring people together," she said.

With an in-person event, the concern is about ordering enough food, the quality of audio and the venue, but with a virtual event there are a variety of technical details to work out and recommendations that users have the most up-to-date version of Zoom.

There will be two "dry runs" ahead of the event to address any potential problems.

Duncombe-Lee encourages early registration so the number of people attending for the event are known to ensure the best user experience. However, the deadline to register is a day before the event. She adds the recommendation is for people to use a desktop computer or laptop using the operating system Windows 7 or higher for the best user experience. Register at www.ulinks.ca.

Although this year's event is virtual, Duncombe-Lee believes it could serve as an example for others.

"It's going to be a very new experience, but we hope it goes well and we hope that other organizations are inspired by the event to do their own virtual events because for a lot of us it's the only choice we have right now," she said.

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Responsibilities

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- delegate, manage, mentor and train staff
- represent firm at meetings
- must have references

Send cover letter & resume to...
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 tel: 705-457-4574
By Appointment Only!

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NOW HIRING

Landscape Construction Forepersons
 Must have experience on machines, reading blue prints, good customer relations, managing people. Top Wages Paid ..can develop into year round work

Carpenter

Must have some experience in carpentry, reading blueprints and knowledge of building codes an asset

Job Site Crew

Experience in landscaping, gardening, carpentry and stonework an asset but not necessary...
 Must have own transportation...

Send resume to... info@blackrocklandscapes.ca
 tel: 705-457-4574*By Appointment Only!*



Lunch Counter

Working at the Lunch Counter in the Food Hub, this role will include working at the lunch counter, preparing food, providing customer service, and promoting local food. It may also include the occasional Hub retail shift.

Full time May - September.
 Weekend availability required.

*Resumes can be submitted to:
ashley@abbeygardens.ca*

Retail Clerk

Working on site in the Food Hub, the Retail Clerk will be responsible for creating and maintaining retail displays, serving retail clients, managing inventory, and some kitchen prep. The retail clerk will be mindful of quality assurance as well as assisting in reaching sales targets.

Full time May - October.
 Weekend availability required.

*Resumes can be submitted to:
susan@abbeygardens.ca*

Full job descriptions can be viewed at abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs



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 705-457-3837
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Employment Opportunity
Casual Operators

The Community Services Department is looking for Casual Operators to join their team. Casual Operators are responsible for the operation and maintenance of facilities, parks and cemeteries. Non-union position. Hours are based on a maximum of 24 hours/week to a maximum of 48 hours every 2 weeks as well as for occasional special projects with hours being variable shifts. Rate of Pay is \$18.22/hour.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for full posting details and job description.

How to Apply: Email cover letter and resume to: sprantice@mindenhills.ca by April 9, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

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650 OBITUARIES



Leopoldina "Leo" Dobrzensky
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully with her daughter by her side on Thursday evening, March 18, 2021 at Haliburton Hospital in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late Jenda Dobrzensky. Loving mother of John, Zdislava and Margaret. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Anna, Jan, Leopoldine and Sophie and by her great grandchildren Jan, Paul, Eugenie, Zitha, Sarah, Alice, Mathilde, Astrid, Alexandre and Gabriel. Predeceased by her daughter Helen, her son Charles, and by sisters Maria, Amalie, Rosa and by her grandson Edward.

Our family mourns this exceptional woman who overcame tremendous upheavals throughout her life and always with dignity and courage. Her generous & warm hearted spirit found enjoyment in countless areas - but especially, in gardening, painting and in classical music. She loved & embraced the Haliburton Highlands - whose natural beauty & people inspired her to write two books on its history Fragments Of A Dream - Pioneering In Dysart Township and Haliburton Village and They Worked and Prayed Together - Italians In Haliburton County. Her legacy also lives on in the donation of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve and in the many lives that she so gently touched.

Visitation & Mass of Christian Burial

Friends were invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario on Tuesday afternoon, March 23, 2021 from 1 - 3 p.m. by appointment only. A Mass of Christian Burial has taken place at ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH 27 Victoria St. Haliburton, Ontario on Wednesday morning, March 24, 2021 at 11 o'clock. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Pregnancy Care Center, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

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The Times

Monday, March 29, 1999. Number 1882

New Listing- MINDEN LAKE
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Board backs doctors on LTC placements

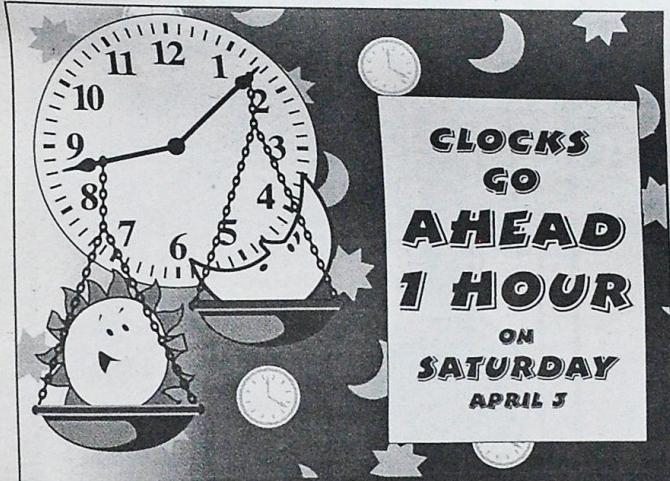
An effort by Haliburton doctors to ensure that acute care beds are available for acute care patients has received the backing of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board. Executive Director Foster Loucks will be writing a letter of support for the position taken by the physicians from the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, to Cam Jackson, Minister responsible for Long Term Care.

The letter requested that, in the future, when transferring patients to long term care facilities, priority be given to those already in acute care beds in the area, over transfers from other regions. By placing priority on those patients ready for long term care (LTC) placement who are occupying acute care beds, the doctors suggest the acute facilities can be better utilized.

"With baby boomers retiring to this area and bringing their elderly parents with them, soon our beds will be full with patients from other areas," said Dr. Aoife Conway. The doctors were concerned with the situation, which occurred in early February, at the Haliburton Hospital.

According to the letter, there five of the ten acute care beds at the hospital were being occupied by long-term care patients. When three spaces in the local long-term care facilities became available. One space was taken by a patient still at home in Haliburton County, but the remaining two were filled by transferred patients from nursing homes outside the region. As a result the LTC patients continued to occupy the Haliburton Hospital beds. With just ten beds available everyone an enjoyable Easter celebration.

(more on page 20)



SWEET ANTICIPATION: Twelve year old Randy Heath and his four year old brother Mackenzie, from Kinmount, enjoyed the sweet harvest of spring Saturday at the Wintergreen Sugar Bush near Gelert. Bush owners, Tom and Diane Dawson, report the warm weather over the weekend has increased the flow of sap, just in time for the annual MapleFest celebration this coming weekend. Sugar bushes throughout the Highlands will be open to visitors who want to see how they can extract sugar from trees. Most also offer a free taste of maple taffy on snow, just like these two lads are enjoying.

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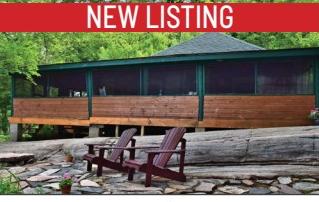
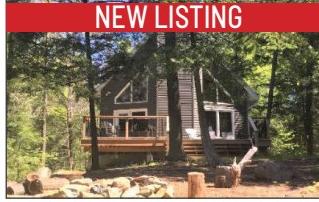
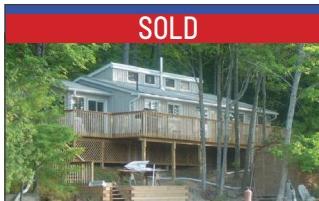
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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Gull River, West Guilford \$799,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom Built • Open concept 3 Bed • 240 ft frontage • Access to 3 chain lake <p>Adele Barry 705-457-0306</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Kushog Lake \$975,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom vintage log cabin • 132 ft of waterfront on 4 acres • West facing gorgeous sunsets • Clean rock shelf shore + sand beach <p>Dagmar Boettcher** 457-5968</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>On The Spot Variety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well established main street location • Increasing lottery commission/revenues • Suitable for family business <p>Andy Campbell 854-0292</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Burdock Lake Tranquility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaxing Property, Escape The City Pressures • 3 Bdrm, 2Baths All Pine , Open Kitchen DR/LR • Level Lot, Easy Access to Lk -Swimming & Fishing • Only 5 Yrs Old, Wi-fi, Boat /Electric Motor Only <p>Gloria Carnochan* & Brian Budel** 754-1932</p>
<p>Ski Hill Chalet \$1,195,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 152 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.05 Acres • 1727 Sq Ft, 3 Bdm, 2 x 4 pc Bath • 1120 Sq Ft Heated Grg • Direct Ski Hill Access <p>Mark Denny* 457-0473</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>Sugar Island Gull Lake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totally renovated 4-bedroom 3 bath cottage • 413 feet of frontage with sand beach • Bonus Bunkie you have to see • Main land parking, docking w/garage <p>Tom Ecclestone* 286-2138 x 226</p>	<p>County Road 21 \$750,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial property in Haliburton • Prime corner location, 1.5 acres • Rental house as an added feature • Sale includes land, & building <p>Lindsay Elder 457-5878</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>Boshkung Lake \$649,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 330 feet of stunning Western exposure • Hard-packed sand & rock shoreline • Excellent boating on the 3-lake chain • Great footprint should you rebuild <p>Andrew Hodgson** 286-2138 x 229</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Mink Rd. \$109,900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy • Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake • Year-round Municipal Road access • Minutes to Haliburton Village <p>Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** 457-2128 x 133</p>	<p>Thinking of Selling your Property?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please give me a call. I would be glad to help. • 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County <p>David Lee* 286-2138 x 227</p>	<p>HOW MUCH IS YOUR PROPERTY WORTH</p>  <p>Are you selling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me a call.... I can help <p>Donna McCallum* 455-2054</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>Drag River \$74,900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.05 acre building lot • Private, yr round road • Hydro at lot line <p>Brandon Nimigon*** 457-2128 x 127</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Barry Line Rd \$149,900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private 5+ acres, yr round rd • Includes insulated garage, drilled well • Pretty building site for home/ctge <p>Karen Nimigon** 457-6505</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Minden Lake \$849,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1460 sf • 2004 build & completely updated • 165 ft waterfront, 0.89 acres • West exposure, sand beach <p>Kelly Kay* 705-457-6841 Kirsten Rae* 286-2138 x 230</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>4 Plex – Loop Rd \$449,900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Plex with good tenants. • Walk to all amenities. • Across the road from the lake <p>Darlene Reil* 447-2055</p>	<p>•WANTED• YOUR LISTING</p>  <p>SELLING PRICES ARE UP!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-waterfront up 110%, Waterfront up 79%* • MAKE A SHARP MOVE and List with Chris! <p>*Jan2020-Jan2021 The Lakelands Assoc.)</p> <p>Christine Sharp* 705-489-9968</p>
<p>Highway 35 \$999,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great commercial lot right on highway 35 • Close to new business developments • Fantastic business opportunity <p>Greg Stamp* 457-2128 x 128</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Gull River, Deep Bay Rd \$199,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 145' frontage, 0.8 acres • Year Round Municipal Road • Southern Exposure • Boat into Gull Lake or Minden <p>Melanie Vigrass* 286-2138 x 232</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>Little Cameron Lake \$925,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacular views from 16' wall of windows • 182' waterfront • Full walkout basement <p>Lindsay Wilkinson* 286-2138 x 223</p>	<p>Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x2 bedrooms, 1x1 bedroom • Hydro metered separately, parking • Coin laundry, drilled well, muni sewer <p>Andrea Wilson** 705-457-6694</p>

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